

NCDPS Inmate Work Crews

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History & Background

- Historically, inmate labor has been an important component of the construction and maintenance of the state's roadways.
- Beginning in the 1980's, in an effort to provide a cost-effective method for improving the safety and appearance of state roadways, an emphasis was placed on using supervised inmate labor for light maintenance and litter pickup.
- In its current configuration, the inmate road squad and litter crew program has been in existence since 2002.

Program Cost Components

--\$9,040,000 Annual Transfer from NCDOT--

- Lead Correctional Officers and Correctional Officers to supervise the inmate squads and crews
- Vehicles and equipment necessary to deploy and supervise the inmates
- An incentive wage of seventy cents (\$.70) per day per inmate

Program Structural Components

- 69 Medium-Custody Road Squads. Up to eight medium-custody inmates are supervised by two armed correctional officers.
- 48 Minimum-Custody Litter Crews. Up to ten minimum-custody inmates are supervised by one unarmed correctional officer. **(These crews are the only type used for disaster recovery)**

Note: The similarly configured but separately funded Community Work Crew Program was ended in 2010.

Use of Program for Disaster Recovery

- Minimum Custody Litter Crews are mobile, flexible, safe and effective for debris cleanup in a variety of settings and therefore are often deployed to assist the general public after hurricanes and tornados.
- Projects are requested by affected localities through North Carolina Emergency Management and are coordinated by the Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice Security Services Section.

Considerations

- Geographic Location of Request
- Suitability of Request for Inmate Labor
 - Public or Private Property?
 - Is it in the broad public interest?
 - Security & Safety
 - Duration of Project

Each request is given careful consideration by NCDPS management

Hurricane Irene(2011): Selected NCDPS / Prisons Labor Projects

- 2 crews from Pasquotank CI worked in the town of Columbia cleaning up town properties. 480 inmate hours, 80 hours staff labor. Completed on 9/2.
- 1 crew from Pasquotank CI worked in the town of Winton cleaning up town properties. 400 inmate hours, 40 hours staff labor. Completed on 9/2.
- 1 crew from Duplin CC worked in the town of Snow Hill cleaning up town properties. 192 inmate hours, 24 hours staff labor. Completed on 9/6.
- 1 crew from Carteret CC worked for Div. of Marine Fisheries picking up 500+ tires from Atlantic Beach. 64 hours inmate labor, 8 hours staff labor. Completed on 8/29.

Questions?

